spelling matching comprises using the spelling to search the

confused spelling dictionary.

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview granted on

January 14, 1999.

Claims 1-6, 8-25, 27-30 are pending with claims 1 and 25

being independent. Claims 7 and 26 have been cancelled.

As discussed at the interview, claim 1 has been amended to

incorporate the subject matter of claim 7. Claim 25 has been

amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 26 and to

recite that confused spelling matching treats commonly-confused

letters as a single letter.

Independent claim 1 was previously rejected as being

anticipated by Roberts. As discussed during the interview, and

as provisionally conceded by the Examiner, Roberts does not

describe or suggest the subject matter of claim 1.

In particular, the "starts_alpha" and "backspace" commands

identified in Roberts by the Examiner do not include a

pronunciation of a word to be corrected. For example,

"starts_alpha" indicates that the spelling begins with the letter

"a", but does not pronounce the spelling. See Roberts at col.

19, line 57 to col. 20, line 6. In the specification, the

correction command Make That is described at page 32, lines 24-28

and page 33, lines 14-22. The Make That command indicates that the user has pronounced the word to be corrected.

Nor does Roberts describe or suggest using confused spelling matching, such as is recited in claim 25. Confused spelling matching treats commonly-confused letters as a single letter. In the interview, the Examiner agreed that Roberts does not describe or suggest using confused spelling matching.

Roberts uses either a larger backup dictionary or a smaller active dictionary to determine likely words. See Roberts at col. 20, line 20 to col. 21, line 35. However, Roberts uses spelling matching, not confused spelling matching, to identify the spelling of a word. Confused spelling matching is based on the idea that a letter may be confused for another letter and that the probability of confusion depends on the characteristics of the two letters and the characteristics of the speaker's pronunciation. This is described in the specification at page 37, line 27 to page 40, line 27.

For these reasons, Applicant requests allowance of all of the pending claims.

Please charge any additional fees, or make any credits, to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 22, 1999

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